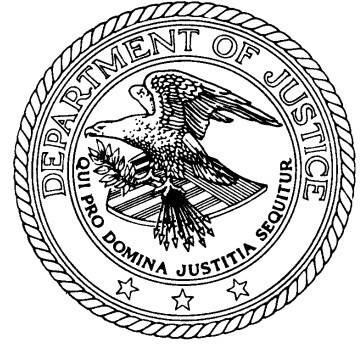


## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FROM: Catherine L. Hanaway  
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Eastern District of Missouri**



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### **TENNESSEE MAN SENTENCED TO 72 MONTHS FOR UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

February 11, 2008

A Tennessee man was sentenced today for unlawful possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Catherine L. Hanaway.

**GERALD BYARS**, age 32, of Brownsville, Tennessee, was sentenced to 72 months on one felony count of being a previously convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He appeared before United States District Judge Catherine D. Perry.

On August 3, 2007, Gerald Byars was the driver of a vehicle stopped for speeding on Interstate 55 in Perry County, Missouri. The officer conducting the stop searched Mr. Byars' vehicle and found a loaded Smith and Wesson, 9mm pistol in the center console. The passenger of the vehicle was interviewed and told the officer that the pistol belonged to Mr. Byars and that

Byars had retrieved it from a house in Memphis, Tennessee shortly they left on their trip to Illinois.

Due to Byars' previous felony convictions, he is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Hanaway praised the Perry County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for their work on the case. Assistant United States Attorney Keith D. Sorrell handled the prosecution for the Government.